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machine end of a spray process and is sprayed inside the container body more or less uniformly onto the internal wall over its entire circumference, [particularly by using a rotating element, and] in that sprayed [coating] powder material is extracted from inside the container bodies and is returned back toward the welding machine[.] and in that the gap between the successive container bodies is reduced in the region of the spray process.

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2. (Twice Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that [the gap between successive container bodies is reduced in the region of the spray process] ^{powder} ~~the coating material is sprayed~~ inside the container body more or less uniformly by a rotating spray element.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment revises independent claim 1 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the Applicant's invention, and in particularly incorporates the subject matter originally recited in claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 2 is amended to recite the use of a rotating spray element. Now under consideration by the Examiner are claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, of which claim 1 is independent.

The Invention as Claimed Distinguishes Over The Prior Art

The invention as claimed is directed to the problem of preventing the contamination of equipment by a powder spray in a process for coating the inner surface of a can with the powder spray. Cans are coated in a spray area as they exit in succession from a seam welding machine. As stated in the application on page 1, lines 23-26, and on page 2, lines 1-10, the problem of such contamination is more severe when coating the entire interior than when coating only the weld seam of the can, primarily because of the larger volume of powder being sprayed over a larger area. The problem is addressed by the claimed invention by recapturing the